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Means of implementation for sustainable forest management

Means of implementation for sustainable forest management

Report of the Secretary-General

Summary

According to the multi-year programme of work of the United Nations Forum on Forests, means of implementation for sustainable forest management, including finance, is a recurring "cross-cutting issue" for each session. At the special session of its ninth session, the United Nations Forum on Forests adopted a resolution on the subject. In that resolution, the Forum decided to establish the Open-ended Intergovernmental Ad Hoc Expert Group on Forest Financing, and the Facilitative Process. The present report contains a progress report on the work of the Facilitative Process and a report on the first meeting of the Open-ended Intergovernmental Ad Hoc Expert Group on Forest Financing. It also contains the Secretary-General's recommendations for intersessional activities between the first and second meetings of the Ad Hoc Expert Group, for consideration by the Forum at its ninth session.

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I. Introduction

1. The present report has been prepared to facilitate deliberations on item 11 of the provisional agenda of the ninth session of the United Nations Forum on Forests.

2. It should also be noted that, according to the Forum's multi-year programme of work for the period 2007-2015, means of implementation, including finance, will be a recurring "cross-cutting issue" for each session.

3. At the special session of its ninth session, held on 30 October 2009, the United Nations Forum on Forests adopted a resolution on means of implementation for sustainable forest management (see E/2009/118-E/CN.18/SS/2009/2, para. 3), by which it established an open-ended intergovernmental ad hoc expert group and a facilitative process. In its decision 2009/268, the Economic and Social Council took note of the report of the special session.

4. Pursuant to paragraph 2 of the above-mentioned resolution and in fulfilment of its mandate, the Ad Hoc Intergovernmental Expert Group on Forest Financing will hold two meetings, one before the ninth session and one before the tenth session of the United Nations Forum on Forests, and will submit a preliminary report at the ninth session and final recommendations at the tenth session for the Forum's consideration and decision.

5. The present report is submitted, in accordance with paragraphs 2 and 5 of the above-mentioned resolution, to inform the Forum on the activities of the Facilitative Process and the outcome of the first meeting of the Ad Hoc Expert Group on Forest Financing. The report of the first meeting of the Ad Hoc Expert Group is contained in document E/CN.18/2011/13. The Co-Chairs' summary of the discussions of the Ad Hoc Expert Group at its first meeting, including their proposals on intersessional activities on forest financing, is annexed to that report.

II. Progress report on the work of the Facilitative Process

A. Functions of the Facilitative Process

6. In the resolution it adopted at the special session of its ninth session, the Forum also decided to establish a facilitative process, to be initiated immediately following the special session of the ninth session of the Forum[1] and in the framework of the multi-year programme of work, working under the guidance of the United Nations Forum on Forests. The Forum invited the members of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests and relevant stakeholders, including regional organizations, to support the work of the Facilitative Process, and to actively engage to catalyse the implementation of sustainable forest management and the non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests and the achievement of the global objectives on forests, taking into account the special needs and circumstances of Africa, the least developed countries, low-forest-cover countries, high-forest-cover countries, medium-forest-cover countries, high-forest-cover low-deforestation countries and small island developing States.

[1] See Economic and Social Council decision 2009/240.

7. The functions of the Facilitative Process, in accordance with the resolution, are:

(a) To assist in mobilizing and supporting new and additional financial resources from all sources for sustainable forest management;

(b) To assist countries in mobilizing, accessing and enhancing the effective use of existing financial resources from all sources for sustainable forest management, taking into account national policies and strategies;

(c) To identify, facilitate and simplify access to all sources of finance for sustainable forest management;

(d) To identify obstacles to, gaps in and opportunities for financing sustainable forest management;

(e) To assist countries in developing national financing strategies for sustainable forest management within the framework of national forest programmes or their equivalent, as called for in the non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests;

(f) To facilitate the transfer of environmentally sound technologies and capacity-building to developing countries;

(g) To provide advice, upon request, and to share examples of good practice in improving the enabling environment for sustainable forest management, in particular in achieving the four global objectives on forests and implementation of the non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests, in order to attract public and private-sector investment and philanthropic funding;

(h) To enhance coordination, cooperation and coherence among relevant funding sources and mechanisms to improve the implementation of the non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests and the achievement of the global objectives on forests at all levels and to improve the effective and efficient use of available financial resources for its implementation.

B. Current activities of the Facilitative Process

8. The Facilitative Process is already under way, with the objective of addressing some priority areas in forest financing as a forensic analysis task. It is important to note that the Facilitative Process is an advisory process and not a funding mechanism. The Facilitative Process works in partnership with financing and funding processes, in a mutually supportive and complementary manner. The United Nations Forum on Forests secretariat initiated the Facilitative Process immediately after the adoption of the resolution at the special session of the ninth session of the Forum.

9. The resolution requires that the Facilitative Process focus on developing countries with special needs and circumstances, and that it should increase cooperation and coordination among key stakeholders.

10. As information remains very limited on what untapped funds exist for forest financing, the Facilitative Process needed to begin by collecting data to highlight existing gaps, obstacles and opportunities for forest financing, as mentioned in its function (d) (see para. 7 above). Moreover, a report on forest financing commissioned

by the Advisory Group on Finance of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests[2] showed that the low forest cover countries and small island developing States have suffered the most from the drop in donor forest financing in the past two decades.

11. In the light of the above and immediately following its establishment, the Facilitative Process was launched with a project on identifying gaps, obstacles and opportunities in regard to financing sustainable forest management in small island developing States and low forest cover countries.

12. This initiative, funded by the Department for International Development (DFID) of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and the Global Environment Facility (GEF), is the first tranche of work under the Facilitative Process and is aimed at providing a clear picture of the financing needs and constraints of low forest cover countries and small island developing States. As a result of this project, during the period 2010-2013 all sources of financing for sustainable forest management in countries in those categories that have suffered significantly from a decline in forest financing will be reviewed.

13. The project has three successive components, described below. The first component was funded by DFID, while the second and third components will be implemented through a grant from GEF. The first component, which was completed in September 2010, consisted of an in-depth analysis and assessment of current and emerging funding, financial mechanisms and flows and gaps in financing at all levels for sustainable forest management in small island developing States and low forest cover countries. The specific objectives of this component are to:

(a) Improve understanding of the current status, gaps and challenges for financing for sustainable forest management in small island developing States and low forest cover countries, including through the utilization of studies by donors, multilateral organizations and academics, in particular for individual countries of the National Forest Programme Facility;

(b) Identify innovative approaches and mechanisms for accessing existing sources of funding and mobilizing new financing for sustainable forest management in small island developing States and low forest cover countries;

(c) Provide the analytical basis for addressing sustainable forest management financing challenges in international policy and support programmes, and in future activities for stakeholder capacity development in small island developing States and low forest cover countries.

14. With the services of an international consultancy agency, the following papers on forest financing in small island developing States and low forest cover countries were prepared:

(a) Seven national case studies (three for small island developing States and four for low forest cover countries) were commissioned from national consultants. These national studies were conducted (i) to provide real-life examples of the broader macro-level and sectoral analyses and (ii) to provide realistic scenarios of

[2] Marrku Simula, "Financing flows and needs to implement the non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests", a report prepared for the Advisory Group on Finance of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests with the support of the Programme on Forests of the World Bank, October 2008. Available from www.un.org/esa/forests/pdf/aheg/finance/AGF_Financing_Study.pdf (accessed 17 August 2010).

future opportunities and constraints, as well as lessons learned from experience. The seven countries selected on the basis of technical criteria were Cape Verde, Fiji and Trinidad and Tobago as small island developing States, and Jordan, Kyrgyzstan, Mali and Uruguay as low forest cover countries. In each of those countries, a workshop was organized for the Governments concerned, donors, the Collaborative Partnership on Forests, experts and representatives of major groups to assess the accuracy of the micro- and macro-level papers, and to collect further primary data;

(b) Four international/regional studies were commissioned to provide macro-level financial forensic analyses of the economic, geographic and institutional situations in regard to sustainable forest management financing in small island developing States and low forest cover countries and to identify challenges and opportunities for the funding of sustainable forest management from a variety of sources.

15. A total of 11 analytical reports were prepared, five focusing on small island developing States and six on low forest cover countries. Within each of those two groups, challenges in regard to forest financing vary significantly from country to country, because of their geographic and climatic conditions, forest coverage, economic activities, forest governance and institutional capacities, among other factors. Therefore, an in-depth analysis, complemented by selective country studies, was necessary to address thematically related challenges and share experiences. Similar considerations will be reflected in the second component of the project in grouping countries for participation in interregional workshops tailored to meet specific needs, build capacity and promote South-South exchange.

16. The second component of the project, to be carried out in 2011, will consist of organizing and holding four interregional workshops (two in small island developing States and two in low forest cover countries) to review and take forward the findings contained in the reports resulting from the first component. The workshops will address specific topics related to forest funding gaps and will include an exchange of views between country-level experts for the purpose of reviewing, validating and adding input to the thematic analytical reports and national case studies, and of preparing recommendations for action by Governments, the private sector, the international community, financing institutions, philanthropists and other stakeholders.

17. There are thus two objectives specific to this second component: (i) to test the validity of the data obtained in the first component by encouraging discussion and the exchange of experiences of forest financing in the countries concerned; and (ii) to promote appropriation of the project and its findings by key stakeholders. An initial network of experts and policymakers on forest financing will thus be established.

18. National experts, recognized international experts in the field of forest financing, the Collaborative Partnership on Forests, donors, and representatives of international, regional and subregional organizations, including the National Forest Programme Facility, civil society and other relevant stakeholders will participate in the workshops, which will also focus on beginning to build capacity to enhance skills to secure financing for sustainable forest management.

19. The third component of the project, to be carried out in 2012, will consist in reporting to forest financing stakeholders, including the Governments of small island developing States and low forest cover countries, donors, and Collaborative

Partnership on Forests member organizations, on the findings of the workshops, identifying key recommendations for further action.

20. This third component will feature activities to promote information exchange and raise awareness of the challenges and opportunities for financing sustainable forest management in small island developing States and low forest cover countries. Communication measures at the national level, particularly in case-study countries, will also be recommended. These activities will help to increase awareness of current financing gaps for sustainable forest management and promote South-South cooperation for increasing financing for forests and facilitating access to forest funding sources. Target audiences for this communication strategy will be forest financing stakeholders, including Governments of small island developing States and low forest cover countries, donors, Collaborative Partnership on Forests member organizations and national and international experts.

21. Care has been taken to emphasize a cross-sectoral, and cross-institutional perspective throughout this project. It has now long been recognized that many of the causes of deforestation lie outside of the forest sector (e.g., in agriculture and in public infrastructure). Likewise, forests have an impact on connected issues, notably climate change. In the same way, financial flows outside of the forest sector can have both positive and negative impacts on forests and, in turn, forests can contribute significantly to the national economy and to reducing poverty. Up to the present time, however, these linkages have only been partially acknowledged by decision-makers and only rarely acted on. The "silos" of Government ministries with responsibility for different issues affecting forests, including deforestation, need to work more collaboratively. It is therefore essential that this project look at financing for forests from a 360-degree perspective, rather than at financing for the forest sector in the narrow sense of the term.

22. Related to this is the desired outcome of initiating a network of forest financing stakeholders in small island developing States and low forest cover countries that extends well beyond the forest sector. In each component of the project, stakeholders from different sectors have been involved in contributing to data production (first component), discussing results (second component) and receiving tailor-made information (third component). This will encourage stakeholders to think beyond "silos", which have been a major impediment to the implementation of sustainable forest management so far.

23. Given the need for a cross-sectoral, cross-institutional approach, an innovative strategy will be implemented, linking sectors and ministries and addressing the issues in a broad and interconnected fashion.

III. First meeting of the Open-ended Intergovernmental Ad Hoc Expert Group on Forest Financing

24. By adopting at the special session of its ninth session its resolution on means of implementation for sustainable forest management, the United Nations Forum on Forests established a new recognition that financing sustainable forest management is a critical action for advancing the global development agenda. In that resolution, the Forum specifically mandated the Open-ended Intergovernmental Ad Hoc Expert Group to make proposals on strategies to mobilize resources from all sources to

support the implementation of sustainable forest management, the achievement of the global objectives on forests and the implementation of the non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests, including, inter alia, strengthening and improving access to funds and establishing a voluntary global forest fund, taking into account, inter alia, the results of the Forum's review of the performance of the Facilitative Process, views of Member States, and review of sustainable forest management-related financing instruments and processes.

25. The first meeting of the Open-ended Intergovernmental Ad Hoc Expert Group on Forest Financing was held from 13 to 17 September 2010 at the United Nations Office in Nairobi. Some 200 experts from 64 countries, 23 international and regional organizations, and major groups participated in the meeting.

26. The programme of work of the meeting was conducted in two workshops and in plenary sessions. During the meeting, experts heard presentations by 28 panellists on such topics as the cross-sectoral importance of forest financing for achieving the internationally agreed development goals; national and regional experiences, policies and strategies on forest financing; the activities of the forest-related financing mechanisms; and the work of the Facilitative Process. The participants also heard keynote speeches on the work of the Amazon Fund, on the pros and cons of various forest financing options, including a global forest fund, and on strengthening the existing financing mechanisms.

27. Representatives of key and influential non-forest sectors, such as planning and finance ministries, participated in the discussion on forest financing and shared their views on how they could contribute to addressing the issue of forest financing. Participants learned more about the opportunities and complexities of the issue, and the scope of the work and the level of activities that countries, organizations and major groups have carried out so far on forest financing.

28. During the meeting, the experts discussed various national, regional and international actions to mobilize resources for sustainable forest management. They also discussed the actions that needed to be undertaken after the ninth session of the United Nations Forum on Forests and prior to the second meeting of the Expert Group, and the areas where further work was necessary.

29. The Co-Chairs of the first meeting of the Expert Group prepared a summary of the debate and, on the basis of the discussions at the meeting proposed a set of intersessional activities. The experts attending the first meeting adopted the report of the meeting,[3] and took note of the Co-Chairs' summary, which is annexed to that report.

30. The discussions at the meeting highlighted the need for further collaboration and sharing of experiences among Governments to develop innovative financing mechanisms, as well as deeper collaboration with the private sector, and the need for an enabling environment for private-sector investment. The discussions also underscored the need to engage Governments, the Collaborative Partnership on Forests and its Advisory Group on Finance more substantively in the identification of forest financing options and modalities and their possible structures, prior to the second meeting of the Ad Hoc Expert Group. The role of the Advisory Group on Finance is considered to be particularly important, as it can provide analyses of

[3] E/CN.18/2011/13.

funding gaps among the forest-related funding mechanisms, including those of the Rio Conventions, and provide proposals on ways to strengthen existing forest-related financing mechanisms, enhance coordination among them, and improve access to their resources. Based on such proposals, participants in the first meeting of the Ad Hoc Expert Group expressed the need for an assessment of different options for forest financing architecture, including a global forest fund, to be prepared by the secretariat for consideration at the second meeting.

IV. Facilitative Process and Ad Hoc Expert Group

31. It is of crucial importance to understand the relationship between the Ad Hoc Expert Group and the Facilitative Process, as they are complementary in terms of both the substance of their mandates and their processes. Those processes will be closely interrelated throughout the four-year period from 2010 to 2013. The cumulative results of the Ad Hoc Expert Group and the Facilitative Process should eventually provide a solid foundation for the crucial decision on forest financing to be taken by the Forum at its tenth session, and a critical input to the 2015 review of the international arrangement on forests.

32. The initial findings emanating from the studies undertaken in the context of the Facilitative Process project were provided to the Ad Hoc Expert Group at its first meeting. Those initial findings revealed the paucity of cross-sectoral data, illustrating the difficulty of going beyond a sectoral approach to tackle the issue of forest financing. The studies unequivocally show that the small island developing States' and the low forest cover countries' share of global forestry official development assistance has dropped threefold between 2002 and 2008, confirming the need to address forest financing urgently in both those categories of countries.

33. The studies indicate that forests are not generally regarded as a development priority in small island developing States. As a result, only half of the small island developing States have explicit forest policies or legislation, or forest administrations, and even where they exist, they have limited financial and human resources. In many small island developing States, the commercial forest sector is marginal or absent, which increases the dependence of forest financing on public funds and innovative mechanisms. Two innovative mechanisms that might substantially increase forest financing could be further developed. First, many small island developing States have a high potential for tourism — including ecotourism — a sector which stands to contribute significantly to forest financing. Secondly, climate change-related (and especially REDD+)[4] funding could be increased in small island developing States, especially in the light of the high vulnerability of these countries to climate change, as well as the important contribution of forests in small island developing States to mitigating and adapting to climate change. In particular, forests in small island developing States not only store carbon, but also prevent erosion in mountainous areas and act as a crucial protection against sea-level rise when located in coastal regions.

34. According to the studies, in low forest cover countries forests do not generally appear on the political agenda, despite their importance. First, they provide a source of shelter, food and, in many cases, livelihood for impoverished rural populations,

[4] Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation.

thus contributing to poverty reduction and food security at the national level. Second, forests are a key instrument in combating desertification and providing clean water, an element of vital social and economic importance given that many low forest cover countries are regularly threatened with drought. There is, therefore, a need for political recognition of the importance of forests and their role in contributing to key national priorities, such as poverty reduction and food security, in order to increase public forest financing. Moreover, acknowledgement of the linkages between forests and related sectors, such as agriculture and energy, is a prerequisite for developing integrated financing strategies that bridge the gap between drylands and forests.

35. As anticipated, the findings of the studies, which still have to be reviewed at various workshops, provided valuable substantive input to the deliberations of the Ad Hoc Expert Group at its first meeting and triggered many ideas and suggestions on the potential future work of the Facilitative Process.

V. Potential future activities of the Facilitative Process

36. The resolution adopted by the Forum at the special session of its ninth session sets out several functions for the Facilitative Process and gives special attention to the situations of specific groups of countries. All the functions of the Facilitative Process are of equal importance and there is no doubt that all those functions have to be implemented in regard to the categories of countries identified in the resolution.

37. The Facilitative Process, on the basis of possible guidance from the Forum and the provision of the necessary resources, can adjust its workplan, including by expanding it to cover similar projects for the remaining categories of countries identified in the above-mentioned resolution, areas of importance for the work of the Ad Hoc Expert Group and other potential areas of interest.

38. It is worth mentioning that the work of the Facilitative Process entirely depends on voluntary contributions to the United Nations Forum on Forests Trust Fund. The limited staffing and financial resources currently available have prevented the Facilitative Process from launching activities to fulfil all of its functions immediately. The small island developing States/low forest cover countries project is only the first of many activities that could be carried out under the Facilitative Process. If sufficient resources are provided, it will be possible to have a long-term plan of various activities for implementation of all the Facilitative Process functions. For example, a similar project on Africa and the least developed countries, as well as on other categories of countries listed in the resolution could be carried out under the Facilitative Process.

39. In addition, given the role of the Forum in providing thorough and comprehensive policy guidance on all aspects of forests, including all aspects of the financing of forests, the Facilitative Process is aimed specifically at bringing in the pieces of information which are currently missing on the impacts of REDD+ financing on broader forest financing. By undertaking such a task, the Facilitative Process would also shed light on grey areas that is crucial for the Forum to make an informed decision on forest financing at its tenth session. Such an undertaking by the Facilitative Process would also be of benefit to other relevant processes, in particular those related to REDD+ financing. The interlinkages between the work of the Forum on forest financing and the climate change REDD+ financing have been

discussed in detail in the note prepared by the secretariat for the first meeting of the Ad Hoc Expert Group (E/CN.18/2010/2).

40. There is huge potential for the Facilitative Process to carry out solid and useful work on the issue of REDD+ financing. To cite an example, additional data could be gathered by the Facilitative Process on financing at the global level, in order to study the overall impact of REDD+ on forest financing. With over $4 billion already pledged, REDD+ is likely to affect forest financing significantly. However, it is not clear which areas of forest financing are likely to benefit from it most. A study commissioned by the Forum could point out potential funding gaps, in a bid to encourage donors to fill them.

41. The aim of such activity would not only be to collect data but also to catalyse communication and exchange between Member States and donors, thereby kick-starting greater coordination among stakeholders. Such activity falls within the functions of the Facilitative Process, in particular, functions (c) (identifying sources of financing), (d) (identifying gaps, obstacles and opportunities) and (h) (enhancing coordination among funding sources) (see para. 7 above).

42. The second phase of such activity could focus on enhancing donor coordination and cooperation. A series of workshops aimed primarily at donors could build on the Source Book on Funding for Sustainable Forest Management,[5] an initiative of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests, by identifying where lack of coordination remains and how different donor sources could be harmonized. Similar initiatives have already been launched, for instance, to harmonize the work of the World Bank's Forest Carbon Partnership Facility and the United Nations Collaborative Programme on Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation in Developing Countries (UN-REDD). This second phase could address functions (a) (assist in mobilizing and supporting new and additional financial resources), (c) (identifying sources of financing) and (h) (enhancing coordination, cooperation and coherence among relevant funding sources and mechanisms) (see para. 7 above).

43. The third phase could focus on the national level, through the preparation of a forest financing toolkit to assist countries in developing national forest financing strategies that take into account national policies and strategies. This toolkit could be shared with countries through a series of regional and thematic workshops and would be followed up on a case-by-case basis, with the provision of advice and the sharing of examples of good practice, where requested. This work at the national level will also be a useful opportunity to facilitate technology transfer and capacity-building in the area of forest financing. This third phase will address functions (e) (assisting countries in developing national financing strategies), (f) (facilitating technology transfer and capacity-building) and (g) (providing advice and examples of good practice) (see para. 7 above).

VI. Recommendations to the United Nations Forum on Forests on intersessional activities on forest financing

44. **In line with the comprehensive approach established in the resolution adopted by the United Nations Forum on Forests at the special session of its ninth session, the forest financing process within the Forum comprises the work**

[5] See www.fao.org/forestry/cpf/sourcebook/en/.

under the Facilitative Process, at the two meetings of the Ad Hoc Intergovernmental Expert Group on Forest Financing and during the intersessional period leading to the tenth session of the Forum, in 2013. The forest financing process needs to translate into action the guidance provided in the resolution on forest financing and arrive at clear, feasible and practical recommendations on issues introduced in the resolution, including the components and elements for a comprehensive strategy or strategies to prevent a piecemeal approach to forest financing, improve the enabling environment, catalyse the use of funding from all sources, take into consideration the cross-cutting nature of forest financing, promote resource realignment and the efficient use of resources, promote coordination of forest financing at all levels, make national, regional and international actions mutually supportive, strengthen and improve access to forest financing, and mobilize adequate resources for the implementation of sustainable forest management and of the non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests, and the achievement of the global objectives on forests.

45. The forest financing process of the United Nations Forum on Forests should provide opportunities for multidisciplinary discussions and input on forest financing, with the direct involvement of Member States, independent experts, member organizations of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests and its Advisory Group on Finance, regional processes, donors, major groups and forest-related financial mechanisms and processes. It is critical to tap the potential of all these key players in order to support the development of a successful decision on financing to be adopted by the United Nations Forum on Forests at its tenth session. The period between the ninth session of the Forum and the second meeting of the Ad Hoc Expert Group will provide sufficient time to ensure the submission of concrete input, in particular by Member States, to the second meeting of the Expert Group and substantive discussion on the final recommendations of that meeting to the Forum at its tenth session.

46. On the basis of the discussions during the first meeting of the Ad Hoc Expert Group, and the proposals by its Co-Chairs on intersessional activities, the Forum may wish to consider and take a decision on the following recommendations, to be carried out during the period leading up to the second meeting of the Expert Group (fourth quarter of 2012).

47. The Forum may wish:

(a) To emphasize the importance of forests and the need for political will, awareness and commitment to urgent action at the national, regional and international levels;

(b) To emphasize the need to mainstream the interests of forest-dependent people, including indigenous peoples and local communities, in financing mechanisms for sustainable forest management, owing to the importance of forests for securing poverty eradication and sustainable livelihoods and achieving the internationally agreed development goals, and recognize the value of contributions from major groups;

(c) To invite substantive submissions, to be received by 1 March 2010, from by Governments, member organizations of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests, regional organizations and processes and major groups on forest

financing options and modalities and their possible structures, including a global forest fund, on the strengthening of existing and emerging mechanisms, the advantages and disadvantages of the various options, and the envisaged functions, requirements and deliverables of those options, and request the United Nations Forum on Forests secretariat to separately compile these submissions to inform the work of the Ad Hoc Expert Group at its second meeting;

(d) To invite members of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests to report to the United Nations Forum on Forests at its tenth session on their ongoing and future actions on forest financing, to consider holding an open-ended organization-led initiative in support of the work of the Forum prior to the second meeting of the Ad Hoc Expert Group, and to deepen and broaden their work in support of national-level action on financing sustainable forest management;

(e) To invite the Advisory Group on Finance of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests, by 1 March 2012, to update and expand:

(i) Its analyses, with a focus on forest-related financing mechanisms, including funding gaps among the Rio Conventions (time frames, deliverables and the working modalities of funding mechanisms), addressing, inter alia, financing, forests and climate change, including REDD+ arrangements pertaining to forest biological diversity in the framework of the Convention on Biological Diversity, relevant financing strategies and investment frameworks for sustainable land management under the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification, the new sustainable forest management/REDD+programme of the Global Environment Fund, as well as financial resources associated with the forest law enforcement governance and trade processes at the country and regional levels, keeping in mind the role of markets;

(ii) Its 2008 finance paper for the second meeting of the Ad Hoc Expert Group, and to provide proposals on ways to strengthen existing forest-related financing mechanisms, enhance coordination among them, improve access to their resources and identify how they fit into the broader forest-financing frameworks;

(f) To invite the United Nations Forum on Forests secretariat to deepen its collaborative work to address gaps in and explore new opportunities for forest financing;

(g) To call upon Member States and international organizations to support the implementation of all the functions of the Facilitative Process, and to strengthen collaboration with relevant partners in regard to the initial outcomes of the Facilitative Process, in particular on small island developing States, low forest cover countries, Africa and the least developed countries;

(h) To request the United Nations Forum on Forests secretariat in its work on the Facilitative Process, and in collaboration with the member organizations of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests:

(i) To work to remove barriers to the access of countries to financing, including through building their capacities, and to further examine the

effects, impacts and synergies of cross-sectoral and cross-institutional activities on forest financing;

(ii) To utilize the platform of the United Nations Forum on Forests to encourage relevant financial institutions, such as regional and national banks, working in close concert with regional forest processes, to further develop ways to mobilize resources and to mainstream the global objectives on forests in their programmes;

(i) To request the United Nations Forum on Forests secretariat, in close cooperation with the Collaborative Partnership on Forests and other key actors, to undertake, within the context of the Facilitative Process, work on REDD+ and forest financing, including the implications of REDD+ funding on broader forest financing;

(j) To call, for further collaboration and sharing of experience with the private sector, in preparation for the second meeting of the Ad Hoc Expert Group, building on lessons learned, given the importance of the private sector in providing sustainable finance for sustainable forest management, and the crucial role of a stable and predictable enabling environment for its investments;

(k) To call for further collaboration and sharing of experience among Governments to develop innovative financing mechanisms;

(l) To request the United Nations Forum on Forest secretariat, based on all of these submissions, to undertake an assessment, with a sense of urgency, of different options for the forest financing architecture, including a global forest fund, and to prepare a note thereon for the second meeting of the Ad Hoc Expert Group;

(m) To urge Member States to develop and implement national forest policy and legislation on financing for forests, including all of the functions of forests, and in so doing consider the financing roles of key ministries, including ministries of agriculture, forestry, transportation, the environment — with a focus on forests and biodiversity, climate change and water — and finance, while also keeping in mind the importance of integrating forest issues into poverty reduction strategies or equivalent cross-cutting donor and finance mechanisms, and to report to the Ad Hoc Expert Group at its second meeting and the United Nations Forum on Forests at its tenth session on their progress and experience;

(n) To request the Co-Chairs of the first meeting of the Ad Hoc Expert Group to hold an open-ended informal consultation during the intersessional period between the ninth session of the Forum and the second meeting of the Expert Group;

(o) To emphasize that only proposed actions which are part of the agreed biennial programme of work of the United Nations Forum on Forests secretariat are covered by the regular budget of the United Nations, that actions undertaken by the Collaborative Partnership on Forests and Member States will be financed by them, and that the remaining proposed intersessional actions require voluntary contributions to the United Nations Forum on Forests Trust Fund.